

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Alexandra Chabot <AlexandraCh@thundermisthealth.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:00 PM  
**To:** Chris O'Brien  
**Subject:** Telehealth support

Dear whomever this may concern,

I am a psychiatric nurse practitioner at Thundermist Health Center. I am writing this in support for extending telehealth coverage. Telehealth has dramatically improved my patients' access to care and has significantly reduced barriers.

Anxiety disorders are the most prevalent of any psychiatric disorder and especially during this trying time, I have no doubts that many of my patients would not have attended their much needed visits had they been required to attend in person. I have had many, many patients who often no show appointments due to anxiety leaving home. Because of telehealth we have finally been able to make significant changes and progress due to markedly improved attendance rate with teletherapy. The no show rates at our clinic are the lowest they have been since starting telehealth for our behavioral health department.

I strongly support and encourage current visits of all types to continue to be reimbursed at full rates for telehealth. For many anxious patients, especially those with social anxiety, having to show up on a video platform is also anxiety provoking and the coverage of phone visits had greatly improved care.

My patients and I are deeply grateful for current telehealth and I strongly support the bill to extend these visits. I hope that you will too.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 401-787-1339.

Thank you very much,  
Alexandra Chabot, PMHNP-BC